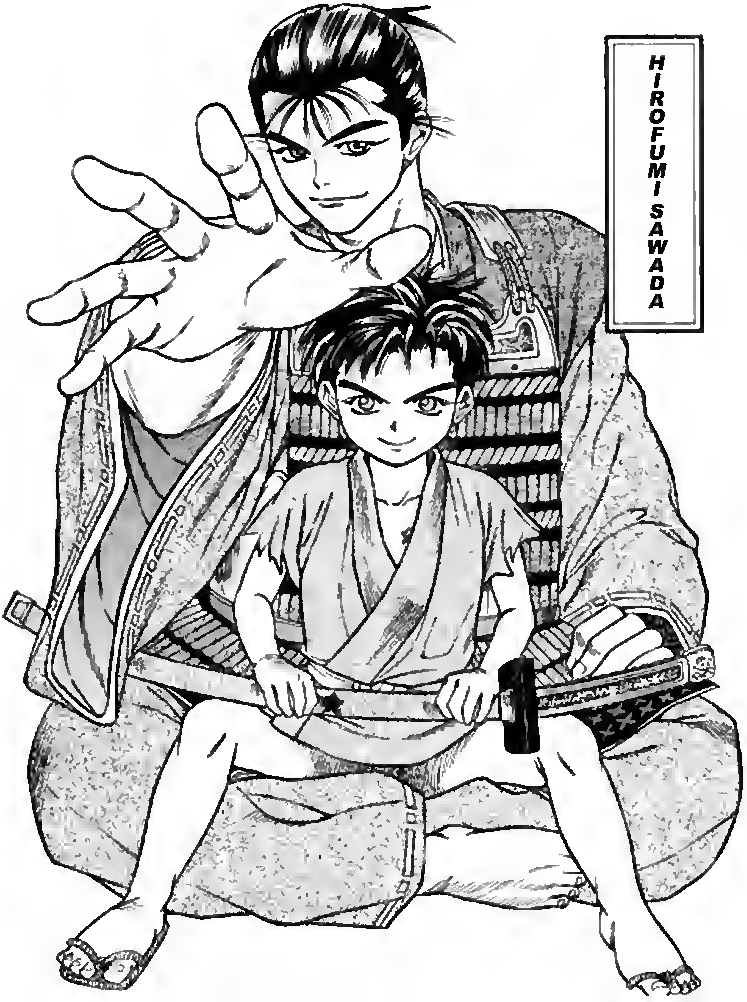
KING OF THIEVES



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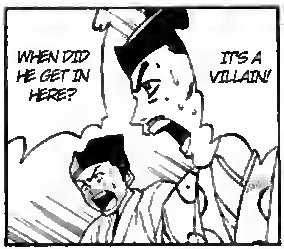
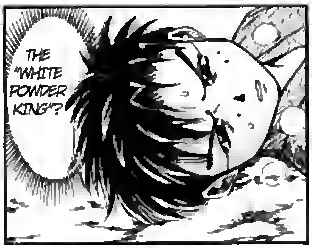
CHAPTER 4

LEADER OF VILLAINS - MASASHIGE KUSUNOKI

I'M A VILLAIN FROM HOUSAN ---
MASASHIGE KUSUNOKI!


WHEN DID HE GET IN HERE?
IT'S A VILLAIN!


THE "WHITE POWDER KING"?

ISN'T THAT..

WE'RE TAKING OVER THIS MANSION!
LET'S GO, MEN!

うおおおお
THE DRIDGE WAS LOWERED?!
HOW IS THIS POS-SIBLE?

NAGAKADO, DON'T JUST SLEEP HERE!
OOH!
WHO ARE THEY? THEY'RE KILLING THE GUARDS SO EASILY...
SO STRONG!
EH?
COULD THESE PEOPLE BE...
FROM KUSHI?
INUAGAKI!
THEY'VE COME TO SAVE ME!
YES?
MIZUHE WILL BE SAVED...
ARE ACTUALLY WHITE POWDER KING'S FOLLOWERS!
SO ALL THOSE KUSHI VILLAGERS..

CRAP, I FAINTED AGAIN...
HMM.
MOVE THE BODIES OVER THERE.
TAKE THEIR WEAPONS!
THIS GUY IS SO HEAVY...
YOU TURNED INTO A MONSTER WHEN YOU WIELDED THAT SWORD.
TAKE... TAKESHITA!
THANKS... FOR YESTERDAY.
ALL THE GUARDS IN THE MANSION WERE KILLED... BY ONLY ABOUT 20 KUSU WARRIORS...

IN THE END, I WAS SAVED BY OTHERS AFTER ALL...
HOW ARE YOU FEELING NOW?
HUH?
NATSUWE, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
I CAN'T COMPLETE A MISSION WITH MY OWN STRENGTH.
I'M JUST A BURDEN ON EVERYONE.
DON'T WORRY!
?
NAT-SUWE...
I BRAGGED ABOUT HOW I WILL AVENGE YOUR FATHER'S DEATH. SORRY, PLEASE FORGET WHAT I SAID.

ALL YOU GUYS NEEDED TO DO WAS TO INFILTRATE THE MANSION AND DIVERT THE GUARDS' ATTENTION!
BUT YOU ACTUALLY KILLED TAKESAKI. GOOD JOB!
BOTH OF YOU DESERVE PRAISE!
CHEW
CHEW
WHITE POWDER KING...
DA

DON'T THINK TOO MUCH!
NATSUWE, YOU ARE NOT A BURDEN.
THE KUSU PEOPLE NEED YOU.
WHITE POWDER KING...
WHITE POWDER KING, WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THESE GUYS?
YAWN..
I'M SO TIRED!
WHITE POWDER KING IS TRULY AN AMAZING MAN..
THOSE ARE THE EYES .. THAT GAVE ME COURAGE!

HMM... THERE'S A BUNCH OF BABES!
AH...
WHAT?
IS HE GOING TO...
LET'S HAVE THEM DO SOME QUALITY WORK!

AND WORK HARD ON THE FIELDS!
BEAT IT! GO BACK TO YOUR VILLAGES!
THANK YOU!
THANK... THANK YOU!
WHAT?
HE'S DIFFERENT FROM THE LIKES OF YOU!
AHH...
THEY HAVE NICE BODIES...
WHITE POWDER KING, IS THAT OK?

GRUMBLE...
...
THAT'S OUR POWDER KING, HE'S SO GENEROUS!
DAMN IT...WHAT A PITY...
THOSE GIRLS WERE FUCKING HOT...
THEY WERE READY TO OBEY MY COMMANDS!
I COULD HAVE MADE THEM DO "THIS" AND "THAT"!
BUT IT'S TOO EMBARRASSING TO CALL THEM BACK!
OH, WHAT HAVE I DONE?
EH?

HE FIGHTS TO MAINTAIN JUSTICE IN AN UNJUST WORLD.
EVEN IF HE SAYS THAT, HE STILL BEAT UP THE BAD GUYS AND HELPED THE WEAK.
SIGH...
ドサッ
?
LOOK AT ALL THESE TREASURES!
CHEER UP, WHITE POWDER KING.

SO YOU JUST WANTED TO ROB THE GOVERNMENT?
YOU DID ALL THIS FOR THE TREASURES? WASN'T IT TO DEFEAT THE BAD GUYS?
YEAH. IS THAT HARD TO BELIEVE?
WHAT?
THIS IS THE MAIN REASON WE CAME HERE.
FORGET IT...
DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?
YOU GUYS ARE NO DIFFERENT THAN MOUNTAIN THIEVES!
WE ARE VILLAINS!
VILLAINS?
WHAT?

ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT UNIFIED, THEIR GOALS ARE THE SAME: TO STEAL THE FOOD AND TREASURES THAT THE GOVERNMENT ROBBED UNDER THE GUISE OF TAXATION, AND TO DESTROY TOCHITOKURA.
THEY DESPISE THE TOCHITOKURA GOVERNMENT AND THE RICH, SELFISH LANDOWNERS.
VILLAINS CONSIST OF A VARIETY OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN REMOTE AREAS.
IN THIS ERA, "VILLAINS" DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN "BAD PEOPLE". THEY'RE USUALLY A GROUP OF STRONG FIGHTERS.

WHENEVER WE SEE THINGS THAT WE CAN TAKE...
WE TAKE THEM.
ESPECIALLY IF THEY BELONG TO THE HOKUJOU FAMILY!
HOKUJOU FAMILY?
WHY THEM IN PARTICULAR?
BECAUSE WE HATE THE HOKUJOU FAMILY!
THEY CAUSED OUR COUNTRY TO ROT AND BECOME CORRUPT.
THAT TAKATOKI SHOULD DIE AND BURN IN HELL!

OK!
PUT THEM OVER THERE.
THIS TREASURE IS THE FUNDS WE NEED IN ORDER TO DESTROY THEM.
THEY HATE THE HOKUJOU FAMILY.
HE WANTS TO KILL TAKATOKI.
PLEASE LET ME JOIN YOUR GROUP!
WHITE... WHITE POWDER KING!
I WANT TO KILL TAKATOKI TOO!
THEY'RE SO STRONG...THEY CAN DEFINITELY ACHIEVE THAT GOAL!
I CAN'T BELIEVE SO MANY PEOPLE WOULD HAVE THE SAME GOAL AS ME.

NO!
BUT YOU'RE JUST A WEAKLING WITHOUT THAT KATANA. YOU'LL JUST BE A BURDEN FOR US!
I WAS INTERESTED, SO I BROUGHT YOU HERE ALONG WITH NATSUME.
I HEARD ABOUT SOME KID WHO CARRIES A HUGE KATANA AROUND.
WHY...?
LET ME JOIN YOUR GROUP!
PLEASE! I'LL TRY MY BEST TO BECOME STRONG!
GRAB!
NAGAKADO, YOU'RE TOO STUBBORN!
I WANT TO AVENGE MY FATHER'S DEATH!
BUT NO MATTER WHAT..

THIS... THIS IS...
ALL RIGHT...
REALLY?
BUT ONLY ON ONE CONDITION!
ONE CONDITION?

. . . . . .
WHAT CONDITION?
TRY TO SNEAK INTO THIS MANSION.
AND APPEAR HERE, RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.

I'LL KEEP THIS SWORD FOR YOU.
AH!
TAKE HIM OUTSIDE AND TELL THE GUARDS NOT TO LET HIM IN.
WHAT?
ISN'T THAT TOO EASY?
YES?
MU-RAGAKI!
THE TIME LIMIT IS THREE DAYS.
IF YOU CAN DO IT, I'LL LET YOU JOIN MY GROUP.
GO!
YOU HAVE TO ENTER THROUGH THE FRONT GATE, OR ELSE IT DOESN'T COUNT.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THEY'RE GUARDING THE GATE DAY AND NIGHT, HOW CAN I POSSIBLY SNEAK IN...

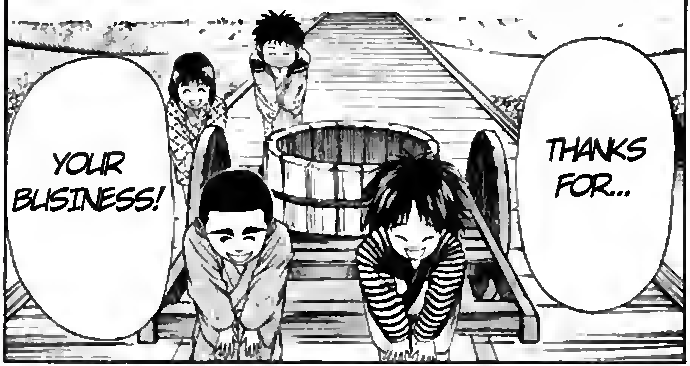
IN ORDER TO GET MY REVENGE, I MUST JOIN THE KUSU GROUP!
I MUST GET IN THERE!
I HEARD THAT THERE ARE MOUNTAIN THIEVES NEARBY. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO GUARD THIS MANSION.
MOUNTAIN THIEVES, EH? HOW TROUBLE-SOME.
HEHE.
HERE COMES THE "KING OF THIEVES"!

NAGAKADO, WE WON'T LET YOU IN NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU BEG US!
SHH!
EH?
THEY MUST BE THE REMAINING SURVIVORS FROM THIS MANSION!
THERE ARE THREE SUSPICIOUS GUYS HIDING IN THE MOAT...
ALL I NEED TO DO IS PUSH THEM OFF THE BRIDGE!
NOW'S MY CHANCE!
WHAT?
GO LOOK UNDER THE BRIDGE YOURSELF!

WHAT?
WE WON'T FALL FOR YOUR TRAP!
LET GO OF ME!
YOU'RE TOO NAIVE! YOUR METHOD WOULD ONLY WORK ON OTHER KIDS!
HAHAHA!

ゴロン
ゴロン
WHAT CAN I DO? WHAT CAN I DO?
DAMN IT! DAMN IT!
CREAK CREAK CREAK
BUT WHEN..
WHEN WILL I GET SUCH A CHANCE?
AND THE GUARDS HAVE TO BE DISTRACTED BY SOMETHING ELSE TOO..
I MUST WAIT FOR THAT DOOR TO OPEN SO I CAN ENTER..
THEY LOOK SO SCARY...I WONDER IF THEY WILL LET US IN TO SELL OUR FISH..
EH? THE GUARDS IN FRONT OF THE GATE HAVE CHANGED!
OOH..
AH!
HERE'S MY CHANCE!

WE GOT A LOT OF FISH TODAY!
LOOK!
HOW ARE YOU DOING?
WE'RE HERE TO DELIVER FISH!
FISH?
WE DON'T NEED IT. GO BACK.
WE DON'T WANT OTHERS TO KNOW THAT WE TOOK OVER THIS MANSION...
HEY... SHOULD WE BUY FISH FROM THEM?
WUAH! !!
I TRIED SO HARD TO CATCH THOSE FISH!
EH? WHY?
YOU USED TO BUY THEM!
OOH...

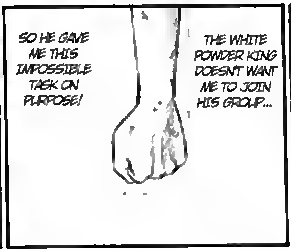

THANKS FOR...
YOUR BUSINESS!

YAY! THEY GAVE ME SOME SECONDHAND CLOTHES!
MOM WILL BE SO HAPPY!
JEEZ... CAN'T HELP IT...
ピチ ピチ ピチ

LET'S CARRY THIS STUFF BACK.
SNEAKY SNEAKY

SHAA!
AH!
YES! I CAN FINALLY ENTER!

WHAT?
THE NEXT ARROW WILL NOT MISS YOU!
DON'T MOVE!
YOU'LL NEVER GET INSIDE THE MANSION!
YOU LITTLE BRAT!
AH!
THEY EVEN HAVE GUARDS ON TOP!

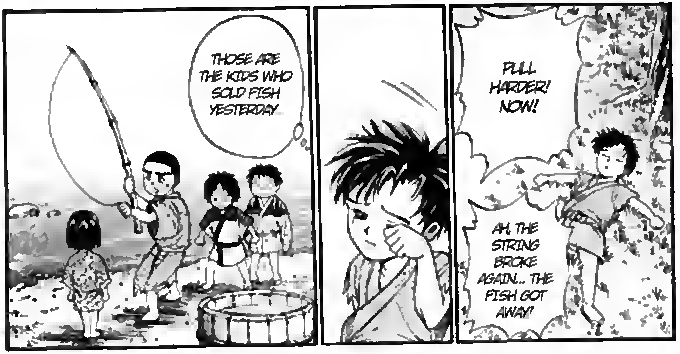

SO HE GAVE ME THIS IMPOSSIBLE TASK ON PURPOSE!
THE WHITE POWDER KING DOESN'T WANT ME TO JOIN HIS GROUP...

THEY'RE GUARDING THE MANSION TOO CAREFULLY THERE'S NO WAY I CAN GET PAST THEM!
I'VE TRIED FOR TWO DAYS AND STILL COULDN'T GET IN.

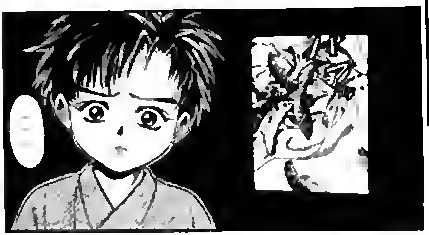
DAD..

NO! I'M SURE YOU CAN!
ALTHOUGH YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, YOU HAVE THE SAME STAR MARK AS ME. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT.
NAGAKADO
YOU MUST BE SUFFERING...
BUT...
PROVE TO ME THAT YOU ARE WORTHY OF BEING MY FOLLOWER!
YOUR STRENGTH IS NOT LIMITED TO THIS KANTANA

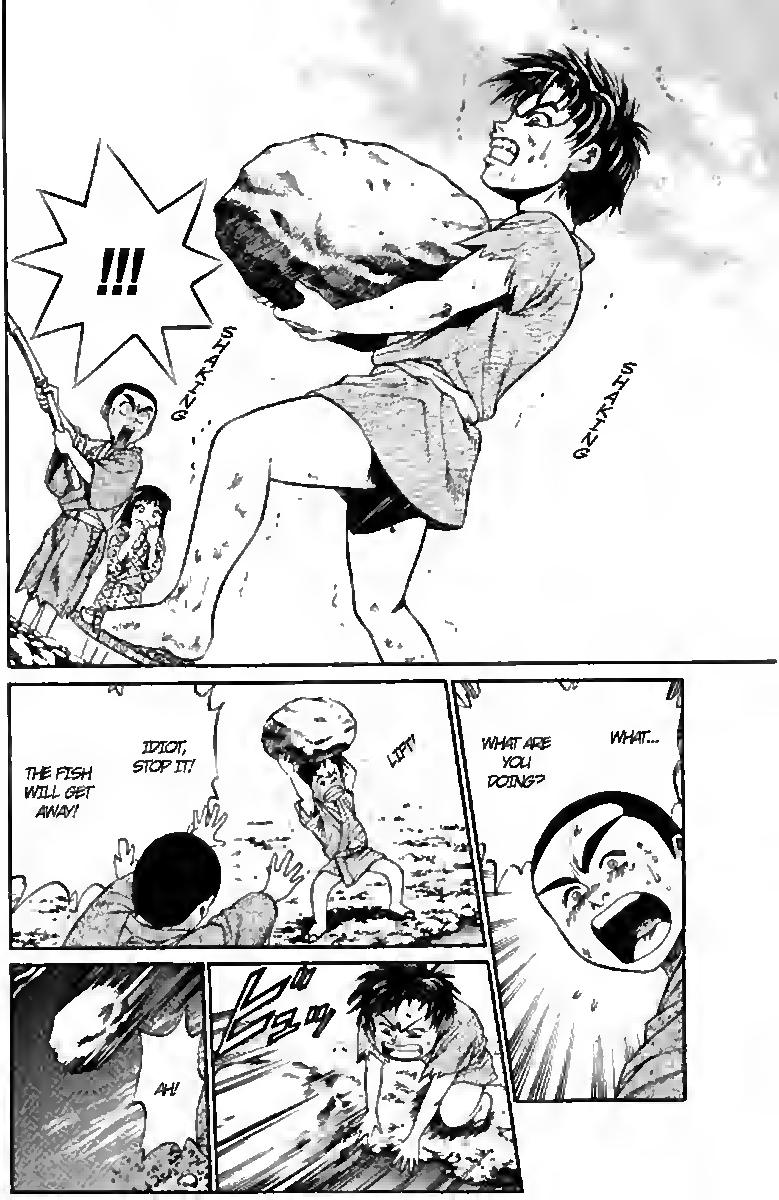
TRY YOUR BEST!
DON'T LET THE FISH GET AWAY! HURRY UP!


THOSE ARE THE KIDS WHO SOLD FISH YESTERDAY.
PULL HARDER! NOW!
AH, THE STRING BROKE AGAIN... THE FISH GOT AWAY!

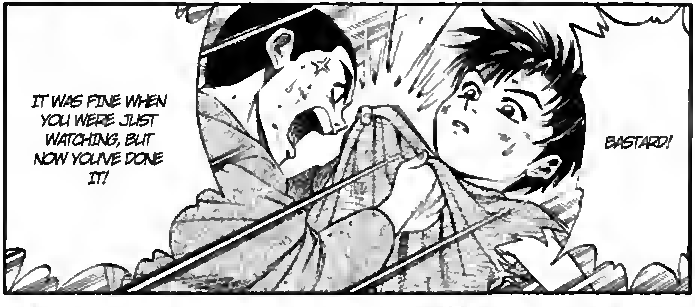
WE HAVE TO CATCH SOME FISH NO MATTER WHAT!
DON'T GIVE UP! IF WE DON'T SHOW UP EVERY DAY, THE HOKUJOU FAMILY WON'T BUY FISH FROM US ANYMORE!
WE CAN'T CATCH ANY FISH TODAY.

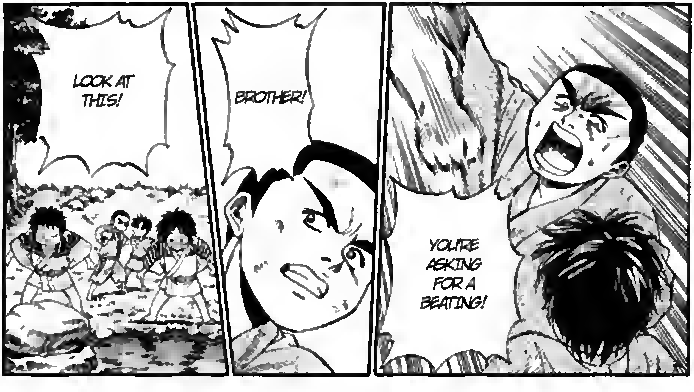


SHH...
I FEEL SORRY FOR THEM...
THEY'RE TRYING SO HARD TO CATCH THE FISH...
DO YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU?
LOOK AROUND
LOOK AROUND
...
WE'RE NOT FISHING FOR FUN!
DON'T INTERFERE IN OUR BUSINESS!


!!!
SWISH
SWISH
WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
LET!
IDIOT, STOP IT!
THE FISH WILL GET AWAY!
AH!

ドゴッ


IT WAS FINE WHEN YOU WERE JUST WATCHING, BUT NOW YOU'VE DONE IT!
BASTARD!

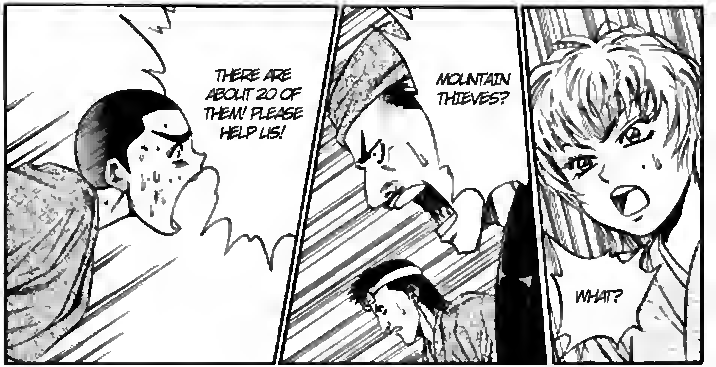

LOOK AT THIS!
BROTHER!
YOU'RE ASKING FOR A BEATING!

FLOATING
THE FISH FLOATED TO THE SURFACE OF THE WATER!
I'VE NEVER SEEN SOMEONE CATCHING FISH LIKE THIS!
WHAT A BIG CATCH!
YOU'RE SO SMART! WHAT A CREATIVE WAY TO CATCH FISH!
YOU GUYS BETTER CATCH THEM QUICKLY!
THEY'RE JUST KNOCKED OUT.
WHAT?
WOW! THEY'RE HUGE!
...

I'M HIKARU. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I'M NAGAKADO.
AH, THE BIG FISH ARE...
TRYING TO EAT THE SMALL FISH!
IT'S OK. YOU FINALLY GOT THE FISH.
SORRY!
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE WAY I ACTED...
BROTHER, WE'VE FILLED THE BASKET! WANNA GO TO THE HOKUJOU FAMILY NOW?
OK, LET'S GO!
GET OUTTA HERE! DON'T DO SUCH A CRUEL THING!

NAGAKADO COULDN'T DO IT AFTER ALL...
HELP!
WHY IS THE WHITE POWDER KING BEING SO HARD ON HIM?
NOT EVEN I CAN THINK OF A WAY TO GET IN...
AREN'T THOSE THE KIDS WHO SOLD US FISH YESTERDAY?

HELP! MITSUKO WAS KILLED!
MOUNTAIN THIEVES ARE CHASING US!


THERE ARE ABOUT 20 OF THEM! PLEASE HELP US!
MOUNTAIN THIEVES?
WHAT?

PREPARE YOURSELF!
MOUNTAIN THIEVES ARE COMING!
ガシャ
ガシャ
LOWER THE BRIDGE!
WHAT? MOUNTAIN THIEVES?
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

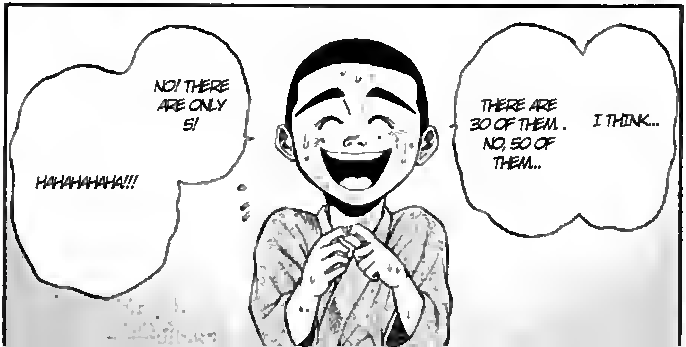
ドン
ガコーン
GULP

SFX TOTAL SILENCE

EH?
YOU SURE THERE ARE ONLY 20 OF THEM? DID YOU SEE ANY MORE?

I DON'T SEE ANY MOUNTAIN THIEVES!
BE PATIENT! THEY COULD COME IN ANY DIRECTION!

UM...
UM...
WELL...


NO! THERE ARE ONLY 5!
HAHAHAHAHA!!!
THERE ARE 30 OF THEM. NO, 50 OF THEM..
I THINK...

ドサッ
?

I'M BACK!
WHITE POWDER KING!
SHIT! HE SNUCK IN!
!!

HAHAHAHA!
HEHE..
GOOD JOB, NAGAKADO!

YOU CAN'T ALWAYS RELY ON STRENGTH.
LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE LEARNED THAT...

AND YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING JUST BY YOURSELF.

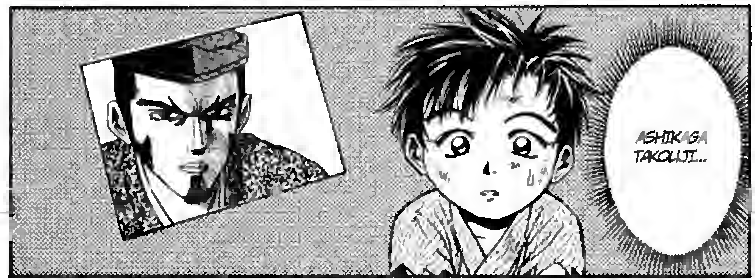
WELL DONE!

I'M SURPRISED THAT YOU WOULD THINK OF THIS.

WHEN ENEMIES COME, YOU ALWAYS HELP THE WEAK...
I SAW THEM SAVING SMALL FISH FROM BIG ONES, SO I THOUGHT OF THIS.

I UNDERSTAND!
HE NEEDS TO WORK WITH HIS COMRADES.
A STRONG WARRIOR NOT ONLY POSSESSES STRENGTH BUT ALSO INTELLIGENCE.
FROM NOW ON, YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE KUSU GROUP!
I RECOGNIZE YOUR STRENGTH.
WHEN ARE WE GOING?
YOU'LL TAKE ME WITH YOU WHEN YOU GO TO KILL TAKATOKI, RIGHT?
DON'T BE SO IMPATIENT.
NAGAKADO...
YES ..I DID IT!

WE HAVE TO BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL ABOUT WHEN WE CHOOSE TO EXECUTE THE MISSION.
THE HOKUJOU FAMILY HAS STRONG FIGHTERS LIKE ASHIKAGA TAKOUJI AND ARATAME YOSHISADA...


ASHIKAGA TAKOUJI...

YOU'RE RIGHT, WE DO ACT LIKE MOUNTAIN THIEVES.
...
KILLING TAKATOKI WILL BE A REALLY HARD TASK.
OUR OPPONENT IS LOCATED AT THE TOCHITOKURA STRONGHOLD

EVERYONE IS TRYING THEIR BEST TO OPPOSE AND WEAKEN THE TOCHITOKURA GOVERNMENT!
WE MIGHT HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF KILLING TAKATOKI IF WE UNIFY.
WE ARE MOUNTAIN THIEVES WITH AN IDEOLOGY! WE HAVE COMRADES SCATTERED ALL OVER JAPAN!
BUT WE DON'T STEAL FOR OURSELVES. WE'RE DOING THIS TO OVERTHROW THE TOCHITOKURA GOVERNMENT.
UNIFY ALL THESE VILLAIN GROUPS?
IN OTHER WORDS...
TRY TO UNIFY ALL THESE VILLAINS IN JAPAN!
IF YOU WANT REVENGE, YOU MUST BECOME STRONG.
PA!
NAGAKADO!

BECOME THE KING OF THIEVES!

KING OF THIEVES...

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KING OF THIEVES VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 4

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